

Marie E. Gallo-Hall
Coventry Legal Services
101 Oak Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860-338-7493
Fax 860-371-2870
gallohall.coventrylaw@outlook.com

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Labor Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 6916

To whom it may concern:

As a Board-Certified Workers' Compensation Specialist, I have represented both claimants and respondents. Throughout my years of practice, a major and recurring issue has been the authorization for treatment while a claim is under investigation. Respondents quite often deny such treatment while discovery is ongoing. While respondents certainly have a due process right to fully investigate a claim to ensure that it is compensable, often a claimant is left without recourse during such an investigation. Claimants, therefore, routinely find themselves out-of-work without pay and in the position of not being able to return to work because they have not been provided with reasonable and necessary medical treatment.

H.B. 6916 attempts to rectify this Catch-22 in which claimant's often find themselves. It provides claimants with the opportunity to receive treatment while the respondents perform their due diligence in investigating claims. It does not change the initial burden of the claimant to set forth a prima facie claim of causation. Instead, once such a prima facie claim has been established, the burden shifts to the respondents to timely and adequately produce evidence to support its denial while also authorizing treatment on at least a without prejudice basis. H.B. 6916, therefore, offers additional protections to claimants while still providing respondents with their due process rights.

Since the humanitarian purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act is best served when claimants are treated promptly and, therefore, more likely to return to work, I offer my support for H.G 6916.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie E. Gallo-Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

Marie E. Gallo-Hall